NUMB. DXXVIII.

The SPECTATOR.

Dum potuit ſolita gemitum virtute repreſſit. Ovid.

Wedneſday, November 5. 1712.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'I Who now write to you am a Woman loaded with Injuries; and the Aggravation of my Misfortune is, that they are ſuch which are overlooked by the Generality of Mankind, and tho' the moſt afflicting imaginable, not regarded as ſuch in the general Senſe of the World. I have hid my Vexation from all Mankind; but have now taken Pen, Ink, and Paper, and am reſolved to unboſome my ſelf to you, and lay before you what grieves me and all the Sex. You have very often mentioned particular Hardſhips done to this or that Lady; but, methinks, you have not in any one Speculation directly pointed at the partial Freedom Men take, the unreaſonable Confinement Women are obliged to, in the only Circumſtance in which we are neceſſarily to have a Commerce with them, that of Love. The Caſe of Celibacy is the great Evil of our Nation; and the Indulgence of the vitious Conduct of Men in that State, with the Ridicule to which Women are expoſed, tho' never ſo virtuous, if long unmarried, is the Root of the greateſt Irregularities of this Nation. To ſhew you, Sir, that tho' you never have given us the Catalogue of a Lady's Library as you promiſed, we read good Books of our own chuſing, I ſhall inſert on this Occaſion a Paragraph or two out of *Echard*'s *Roman Hiſtory*. In the 44th Page of the ſecond Volume the Author obſerves, That *Auguſtus*, upon his Return to *Rome* at the End of a War, received Complaints that too great a Number of the young Men of Quality were unmarried. The Emperor thereupon aſſembled the whole *Equeſtrian* Order; and having ſeparated the Married from the Single, did particular Honours to the former; but he told the latter, that is to ſay, Mr. SPECTATOR, he told the Batchelors, "That their Lives and Actions had been ſo peculiar, that he knew not by what Name to call 'em; not by that of Men, for they perform'd nothing "that was manly; not by that of Citizens, for the "City might periſh notwithſtanding their Care; "nor by that of *Romans*, for they deſign'd to extirpate the *Roman* Name." Then proceeding to ſhew his tender Care and hearty Affection for his People, he further told 'em, "That their Courſe "of Life was of ſuch pernicious Conſequence to "the Glory and Grandeur of the *Roman* Nation, "that he cou'd not chuſe but tell 'em, that all o"ther Crimes put together cou'd not equalize "theirs: For they were guilty of Murder, in not "ſuffering thoſe to be born which ſhou'd proceed "from them; of Impiety, in cauſing the Names "and Honours of their Anceſtors to ceaſe; and of "Sacrilege, in deſtroying their Kind, which pro"ceed from the immortal Gods, and human Na"ture, the principal Thing conſecrated to 'em: "Therefore in this Reſpect they diſſolv'd the Go"vernment, in diſobeying its Laws; betray'd their "Country, by making it barren and waſte; nay, "and demoliſh'd their City, in depriving it of In"habitants. And he was ſenſible that all this pro"ceeded not from any kind of Virtue or Abſti"nence, but from a Looſeneſs and Wantonneſs, "which ought never to be encourag'd in any Civil "Government." There are no Particulars dwelt upon that let us into the Conduct of theſe young Worthies, whom this great Emperor treated with ſo much Juſtice and Indignation; but any one who obſerves what paſſes in this Town, may very well frame to himſelf a Notion of their Riots and Debaucheries all Night, and their apparent Preparations for them all Day. It is not to be doubted but theſe *Romans* never paſſed any of their Time innocently but when they were aſleep, and never ſlept but when they were weary and heavy with Exceſſes, and ſlept only to prepare themſelves for the Repetition of them. If you did your Duty as a SPECTATOR, you would carefully examine into the Number of Births, Marriages, and Burials; and when you had deducted out of your Deaths all ſuch as went out of the World without marrying, then caſt up the Num-

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ber of both Sexes born within ſuch a Term of Years laſt paſt, you might from the ſingle People departed make ſome uſeful Inferences or Gueſſes how many there are left unmarried, and raiſe ſome uſeful Scheme for the Amendment of the Age in that Particular. I have not Patience to proceed gravely on this abominable Libertiniſm; for I cannot but reflect, as I am writing to you, upon a certain laſcivious Manner which all our young Gentlemen uſe in Publick, and examine our Eyes with a Petulancy in their own, which is a downright Affront to Modeſty. A diſdainful Look on ſuch an Occaſion is returned with a Countenance rebuked, but by averting their Eyes from the Woman of Honour and Decency to ſome flippant Creature, who will, as the Phraſe is, be kinder. I muſt ſet down things as they come into my Head, without ſtanding upon Order. Ten thouſand to one but the gay Gentleman who ſtared at the ſame Time is an Houſe-keeper; for you muſt know they have got into a Humour of late of being very regular in their Sins, and a young Fellow ſhall keep his four Maids and three Footmen with the greateſt Gravity imaginable. There are no leſs than ſix of theſe venerable Houſe-keepers of my Acquaintance. This Humour among young Men of Condition is imitated by all the World below them, and a general Diſſolution of Manners ariſes from the one Source of Libertiniſm without Shame or Reprehenſion in the Male Youth. It is from this one Fountain that ſo many beautiful helpleſs young Women are ſacrificed, and given up to Lewdneſs, Shame, Poverty, and Diſeaſe: It is to this alſo that ſo many excellent young Women, who might be Patterns of conjugal Affection and Parents of a worthy Race, pine under unhappy Paſſions for ſuch as have not Attention enough to obſerve, or Virtue enough to prefer them to their common Wenches. Now, Mr. SPECTATOR, I muſt be free to own to you, that I my ſelf ſuffer a taſteleſs inſipid Being, from a Conſideration I have for a Man who would not, as he has ſaid in my Hearing, reſign his Liberty, as he calls it, for all the Beauty and Wealth the whole Sex is poſſeſſed of. Such Calamities as theſe would not happen, if it could poſſibly be brought about, that by fineing Batchelors as Papiſt's Convict, or the like, they were diſtinguiſhed to their Diſadvantage from the reſt of the World, who fall in with the Meaſures of civil Society. Leſt you ſhould think I ſpeak this as being, according to the ſenſeleſs rude Phraſe, a malicious old Maid, I ſhall acquaint you I am a Woman of Condition not now three and twenty, and have had Propoſals from at leaſt ten different Men, and the greater Number of them have upon the Upſhot refuſed me. Something or other is always amiſs when the Lover takes to ſome new Wench: A Settlement is eaſily excepted againſt; and there is very little Recourſe to avoid the vitious Part of our Youth, but throwing ones ſelf away upon ſome lifeleſs Blockhead, who tho' he is without Vice, is alſo without Virtue. Now-a-days we muſt be contented if we can get Creatures which are not bad, good are not to be expected. Mr. SPECTATOR, I ſat near you the other Day, and think I did not diſpleaſe your Spectatorial Eye-ſight; which I ſhall be a better Judge of when I ſee whether you take Notice of theſe Evils your own way, or print this Memorial dictated from the diſdainful heavy Heart of,

S I R,

Your moſt obedient
Humble Servant,
Rachael Welladay.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Whereas there hath been lately publiſhed a certain legendary Story of an unknown Theodoſius *concerning the Prieſthood of Chriſt, tranſlated out of* Suidas, *under the Title of* A very ancient, authentick, and remarkable Teſtimony concerning our bleſſed Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt; *which the Tranſlator hath taken the Liberty not only to dedicate to me, but to uſe my Name in the Title Page, thereby giving Occaſion to think I countenance the Authority of that Teſtimony: Now theſe are to certify, That the Perſon who publiſhed that Pamphlet is altogether a Stranger to me; and that I was no ways acquainted with his Deſign till I ſaw it in Print; for though the Paſſage produced may appear remarkable, yet I cannot think the Teſtimony either ancient or authentick.*

Nov. 4, 1712. Rob. Nelſon.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane, this preſent Wedneſday, being the 5th of November, will be preſented a Play call'd, The Tempeſt, or, The Inchanted Iſland; As it was alter'd from Shakeſpear by Sir Will. d'Avenant, and the late Mr. Dryden, Poets Laureat: With new Scenes, Machines, and all the original Decorations proper to the Play. And to Morrow (at the Deſire of ſeveral Ladies of Quality) will be preſented, The Stratagem.

At the Star and Two Rolls of Silk in St. Martins-le-Grand, the firſt Silk Shop on the Right-hand going down St. Martins from Newgate-ſtreet, is ſold all Sorts of the beſt Black Silks for Hoods and Scarves, rich black Paduaſways for Gowns and Petticoats, and Mantuas, both black and colour'd; likewiſe white Sarſenets and Perſions for Hoods, colour'd Perſions for Linings, black Velvets, Gawſes, Furbelow'd Scarves and Aprons ready made great Pennyworths. Note, The Shop is a new Shop juſt open'd.

This Day is publiſhed the ſecond Edition of,

A Poem to his Excellency the Lord Privy-Seal, on the Proſpect of PEACE. By Mr. Tickell. Printed for J. Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head, over-againſt Catherine ſtreet in the Strand.

This Day is Publiſhed,

The Faithful General; a Tragedy. Price 1 s. 6d.

The Works of Mr. Nath. Lee, collected into 2 Vol. Price 14 s. The Works of Mr. William Wicherly, collected into one Vol. Price 6 s. The Lovers Secretary, or, The Adventures of Lindamira, a Lady of Quality, Writ with her own Hand to her Friend in the Country, in 24 Letters, being an Account of her Intreagues and Amours from Fifteen Years to Fifty. Price 2 s. 6 d. Cocker's Decimal Arithmetick, the 4th Edition. Price 3 s. 6 d. Familiar Letters, writ by John, late Earl of Rocheſter. Price 5 s. Incognita, or, Love and Duty reconcil'd, a Novel, by Mr. Congreve. Price 1 s. 6 d. Printed for R. Wellington at the Dolphin and Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard, where are ſold all Sorts of Plays.

An Eſſay on the Poets, dedicated to his Grace the Duke of Buckingham. Printed for D. Brown without Temple-Bar, and A. Baldwin at the Oxford-Arms in Warwick lane. Price 2 d. where may be had Mr. Morrice's Miſcellanies or Amuſements in Verſe and Proſe. Price 1 s.

This is to give Notice, That the Royal Chymical Waſh-Balls for the Hands and Face, are removed from Mr. Lambert's the Glovers, to prevent the Publick's being impoſed on by Counterfeits, and are now ſold only at Mr. Allcroft's Toyſhop at the Blue-Coat-Boy againſt the Royal Exchange in Cornhill, and at Mrs. Giles's, Milliner, next Hercules-Pillars Alley by the Temple. They have above theſe 5 Years been largely experienc'd and highly commended by all that uſe them, and that for making the Skin ſo delicately ſoft and ſmooth, as not to be paralled by either Waſh, Powder, Coſmetick, &c. they being indeed real Beautifiers of the Skin, by taking off all Deformities, as Tetters, Ring-worms, Morphew, Sun-burn, Scurf, Pimples, Pits or Redneſs of the Small-pox, and keeping it of a laſting and extream Whiteneſs. They ſoon alter red or rough Hands, and are admirable in Shaving the Head, for they not only give a more exquiſite ſharpneſs to the Razor, but ſo comfort the Brain and Nerves, as to prevent catching Cold. They are of a grateful and pleaſant Scent, without the leaſt Grain of Mercury; and are ſold only by Mr. Allcroft, and Mrs. Giles, as above, price 1 s. each. and no where elſe in London by Retale, therefore beware of Counterfeits, which are not only ineffectual but may alſo prove dangerous.

LONDON: Printed for *S. Buckley* and *J. Tonſon*, and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*.

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